

## FORM B - BUILDING

**Date** (*month / year*): June 2018

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

### Photograph



### Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson  
community preservation + planning

**Organization:** Hanson Historical Commission

Assessor's Number      USGS Quad      Area(s)      Form  
Number

34-0-10B-0

Hanover

HNS.237

**Town/City:** Hanson

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):

**Address:** 795 Main Street

**Historic Name:** Reverend Joseph Torrey House

**Uses:** Present: Single-Family Dwelling

Original: Single-Family Dwelling

**Date of Construction:** 1810

**Source:** White's History, Plan 4 No. 51, Page  
64

**Style/Form:** Federal/Cape

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

None

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Shed dormer  
on south slope of main roof, one-story addition to  
south façade and attached garage

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒      **yes** ☐      **Date:**

**Acreage:** 1.07 Acres

**Setting:** Located on one of Hanson's main  
thoroughfares next to Hanson's Police  
headquarters in a residential area characterized  
by nineteenth and early twentieth century homes  
located close to the street on relatively large lots.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

795

Main Street

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

The one-and-a-half story Cape style house has an asphalt shingled gable roof with a short, corbeled brick chimney at the center of the roof ridge. The house sits far back from the road and is wood clapboard sided with wood trim and six-over-nine double hung replacement wood windows. The roof of the house overhangs the gable facades only slightly with wood trimmed eaves and soffits projecting out over the cornice board and corner boards below. The roof ends flush with the gable-end facades, where a narrow band of wood trim outlines the pediment. The wood frames of the windows extend up to the cornice on the north façade and have narrow, projecting sills.

The house faces north towards the street and has a symmetrical front facade with two windows to either side of the center entrance. The door frame has a narrow flat header that extends up into the cornice over a newer replacement door with a fan style window at its top. The house is located directly behind another house that sits close to the street, and that yard is surrounded by a tall wood picket fence. This fence screens the lower half of the north façade of the house, and its distance from the street as well as the surrounding trees and fencing eliminates any visibility to the west façade. The east gable-end has two double hung windows on each floor and a large shed dormer is located around the corner of the façade on the south roof slope. The one-story addition to the south façade is flush with the east façade of the house and a side entrance is located in its right corner with a window to its left. At the south end of the addition, a gable-end roofed garage extends over and to the west of the addition. Its garage doors are located on its east façade but are not clearly visible from the street.

The wide asphalt paved driveway extends from the street along the east side of the house with mature trees to either side. A low fieldstone wall runs along the east property line between the house and the police station next door. Dense vegetation and mature trees are located to the south and west of the house. The west side of the driveway is also bordered by the same wood stockade fence that screens the front façade from view. A low stone retaining wall runs along the western driveway next to the house, which also has planting beds and foundation plantings along this façade.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

According to White's *History of Hanson*, the home was built in 1810 by Reverend Joseph Torrey (1787-1835), the first minister at the Baptist Church, and was formerly known as the Torrey Place. Torrey was married twice—first to Almira Little (1796-1822) of Marshfield and after her death in 1822 to Maria Barker (1798-1876) of Hanson. Maria was the sister of Dr. Bowen Barker and Deacon Josiah Barker, who lived to the west on Main Street. White states that Reverend Torrey occupied the house for eleven years before selling it to Elihu Thomas but a review of the deeds shows that Torrey actually lived there for closer to seventeen years, selling it after he left the Baptist Church in 1825 to Cephas Bonney in 1827.<sup>1</sup> Cephas Bonney (1802-1874) was born in Marshfield and

<sup>1</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 159, Page 280

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married Deborah Soper of Hanson in 1824. The Bonneys lived in Hanson as farmers for only a few years, long enough for C. Bonney to appear on the 1830 Smith Plan, before selling the house to William Derry and returning to Marshfield in 1838. Derry sold the property that same year to Elihu Thomas.<sup>2</sup> Elihu Thomas (1818-1879) was born in Pembroke to Lydia and Levi Thomas and married Christiana Brewster in Hanson in 1846. Thomas's career as listed on the 1855 state census is not clear but in later years he appears as both a farmer and a furnaceman, while in 1865, the state census lists Christiana as being a milliner. According to White, Thomas occupied this home only until he finished building his new house at 848 Main Street in 1852. After that, Thomas is said to have rented the house as a tenement for the next forty years. The 1856 Walling Map lists E. Thomas at both locations.

Elihu Thomas sold the property shortly before his death to Frank Osborne of Brockton,<sup>3</sup> who appears on the 1879 Walker Atlas as living on the property which at the time sat to the east of a small pond and included several additions to the south façade of the house as well as a separate barn to the east. Frank Osborne was a shoemaker and sold the property in 1879 to Edward Perry<sup>4</sup>, beginning a long sequence of short ownerships and rapid turnovers for the property. Perry sold the property that same year to Truman Smith(1838-1896), a farmer from Pembroke. Truman owned the property until 1892, when he sold it to Bowman Nickerson.<sup>5</sup> The next year the property was transferred from Nickerson to Charles S. MacCorry to Alva C Jacobs, then from Alva to his son, Mervin W. Jacobs.<sup>6</sup> Mervin Jacobs lived in Abington around the time of the purchase, but there is no record that he ever lived on the site before moving to New Woodstock, NY, where he was living when he sold the property to Elias and Eva Bennett in 1903.<sup>7</sup> Bennet is shown on the 1903 Richards Atlas but only briefly owned the property, selling it in 1904 to Sidney Ford, a real estate salesman.<sup>8</sup> By the 1910 U.S. Census, the Fords had moved to a rental unit and had sold the property to Henry L. Greene.<sup>9</sup> The property would change hands four more times in the next four years before coming into the hands of Alice I. and Guy Fabyan,<sup>10</sup> who were the residents of the house during White's time. Guy Fabyan (b. 1867) was from New Hampshire and is listed in the U.S. Census as a planner in the box factory in 1920, and as a public school janitor in 1930 and 1940. Guy died in 1952 and Alice in 1953, after which her estate sold the property to Marcus L. Urann (1873-1963).<sup>11</sup> Marcus L. Urann revolutionized the cranberry canning process, creating the United Cape Cod Cranberry Co. which would go on to become today's Ocean Spray. Both Urann and his company owned a great deal of land in Hanson during the middle of the twentieth century, but there is no evidence that he lived in or personally used the house during this time. In fact, Urann sold the property only a few years later in 1958 to Louis A and Florence A. Pelaquin.<sup>12</sup> The Pelequins lived there until 1962 when they sold it to Russell W. Lane of Abington who sold it that same years to Edward J. and Gertrude A. Rosebach, who then sold it in 1963 to John and Helen Gorski.<sup>13</sup> The Gorskis lived in the house until 1977, when they sold it to Harold and Lynn Pratti.<sup>14</sup> In 1990, Lynn Pratti, now Lynn Horrigan, and her husband Paul moved to Illinois and sold the property to Mariann and Christopher Olsen. In 1995 Mariann J. Olsen

<sup>2</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 193, Page 132

<sup>3</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 425, Page 138

<sup>4</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 456, Page 146

<sup>5</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 644, Page 186

<sup>6</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 645, Page 271; Book 648, Page 99; Book 648, Page 486; Book 648,Page 486

<sup>7</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 867, Page 507

<sup>8</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 880,Page 341

<sup>9</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1044,Page 57

<sup>10</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1213 Page 7

<sup>11</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 2379,Page 6

<sup>12</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 2649, Page 45

<sup>13</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 2912, page 443; Book 2925, Page 324; Book 2999, Page 245

<sup>14</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 4369, page 328

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sold the house to Suzanne Ames, who sold the house to its current owners, Jane Walsh and John Hagan, in 1998.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 14026, Page 38; Book 16312, Page 63